<u>Amendment "A"</u>

<u>Amendments to the Specification</u>

Please amend the specification as follows:

1) Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 3-13 with the following paragraph:

With reference to FIGURE 3, the BIT image tag 210 is shown with its constituent components separately highlighted. BIT tag 210 generally includes an image tag identifier 305, a display size segment 310, a BIT URL 320, and a format segment 340. The image tag identifier, "img" at 305, is a HTML instruction that identifies the tag as an image tag. It generally causes a browser to retrieve and display the graphic file specified in the BIT URL 320. The display size segment 310 defines the allowable space that the specified graphic can occupy. In the depicted embodiment, the height and width are each set to one. This corresponds to a one by one pixel array allotment for the graphic, which effectively ensures that an error graphic will not appear on the user's screen. This is desirable because the designated image is a broken image and thus an image error will occur, which would otherwise cause the browser to display an image error graphic.

2) Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 17-25 with the following paragraph:

The last segment in the depicted BIT URL is the bogus image file designator, "broken.gif," at 339. It ensures that the broken image server actually looks for an image file. In turn, this ensures that an image error will occur since no such file will be found. Thus, segment 339 is the name of a bogus image file that may or may not exist -- so

long as it cannot be found if in fact it does exist. (It should be recognized, however, that a file need not necessarily be designated in the BIT URL – depending on the utilized internet programs for the web tool and broken image servers – in order t̲o̲ achieve proper BIT operation. That is, the BIT URL would not have to include the broken.gif segment 339 or any other file designation.)

(End of amendments to the specification.)

(Continued on next page.)

-3-